

CLAIMS:

1. A method of transacting a digital object in which a vendor offers for sale or trade the digital object to a purchaser, the method comprising the steps of:

- 5 receiving a digital object from a vendor;
- testing the digital object for the presence of an authorization code;
- associating a warning status with the digital object on detecting the presence of an authorization code in the digital object;
- checking a database of vendor details maintained in computer memory;
- 10 associating an alert status with the digital object on detecting an entry in the database of vendor details representing an alert status associated with the vendor;
- adding one or more authorization codes to the digital object; and
- updating the entry in the database of vendor details representing the vendor with the warning and/or alert status associated with the digital object.

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2. A method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

- receiving a vendor identifier representing the vendor from which the digital object is received; and
- 20 adding the vendor identifier to the digital object.

3. A method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

- extracting the vendor identifier from the digital object;
- 25 comparing the extracted vendor identifier with the vendor identifier received from the vendor; and
- checking the digital object for an associated warning status.

4. A method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 3 further comprising

30 the step of removing the warning status if the extracted vendor identifier matches the vendor identifier received from the vendor.

5. A method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 3 further comprising the step of associating a warning status with the digital object if the extracted vendor identifier does not match the vendor identifier received from the vendor.

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6. A method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

checking the database of vendor details maintained in computer memory; and

updating the entry in the database of vendor details representing the vendor with
10 an alert status if the number of warning status indicators associated with the vendor exceeds a predefined threshold.

7. A method of transacting a digital object in which a vendor offers for sale or trade the digital object to a purchaser, the method comprising the steps of:

15 receiving a digital object from a vendor;

testing the digital object for the presence of an authorization code;

associating a warning status with the digital object on detecting the presence of an authorization code in the digital object;

adding one or more authorization codes to the digital object; and

20 updating the entry in the database of vendor details representing the vendor with the warning status if associated with the digital object.

8. A method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

25 receiving a vendor identifier representing the vendor from which the digital object is received; and

adding the vendor identifier to the digital object.

9. A method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 8 further comprising
30 the steps of:

extracting the vendor identifier from the digital object;

comparing the extracted vendor identifier with the vendor identifier received from the vendor; and

checking the digital object for an associated warning status.

5 10. A method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 9 further comprising the step of removing the warning status if the extracted vendor identifier matches the vendor identifier received from the vendor.

11. A method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 9 further comprising
10 the step of associating a warning status with the digital object if the extracted vendor identifier does not match the vendor identifier received from the vendor.

12. A method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

15 checking a database of vendor details maintained in computer memory;
associating an alert status with the digital object on detecting an entry in the database of vendor details representing an alert status associated with the vendor; and
updating the entry in the database of vendor details representing the vendor with the alert status if associated with the digital object.

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13. A method of transacting a digital object in which a vendor offers for sale or trade the digital object to a purchaser, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a digital object from a vendor;
checking a database of vendor details maintained in computer memory;
25 associating an alert status with the digital object on detecting an entry in the database of vendor details representing an alert status associated with the vendor;
adding one or more authorization codes to the digital object; and
updating the entry in the database of vendor details representing the vendor with the alert status if associated with the digital object.

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14. A method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 13 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a vendor identifier representing the vendor from which the digital object is received; and

5 adding the vendor identifier to the digital object.

15. A method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

extracting the vendor identifier from the digital object;

10 comparing the extracted vendor identifier with the vendor identifier received from the vendor; and

checking the digital object for an associated warning status.

16. A method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 15 further comprising the step of removing the warning status if the extracted vendor identifier matches the
15 vendor identifier received from the vendor.

17. A method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 15 further comprising the step of associating a warning status with the digital object if the extracted vendor
20 identifier does not match the vendor identifier received from the vendor.

18. A method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 13 further comprising the steps of:

testing the digital object for the presence of an authorization code;

25 associating a warning status with the digital object on detecting the presence of an authorization code in the digital object; and

updating the entry in the database of vendor details representing the vendor with the warning status if associated with the digital object.

30 19. A method of transacting a digital object in which a vendor offers for sale or trade the digital object to a purchaser, the method comprising the steps of:

transferring a digital object from a vendor to an electronic marketplace;
testing the digital object for authorization violation;
adding one or more authorization codes to the digital object; and
storing an identifier of the vendor in computer memory in the event of the digital
5 object violating the authorization test.

20. A transaction system in which a vendor offers for sale or trade a digital object to a purchaser, the system comprising:
an acceptance component configured to receive a digital object for sale or trade;
10 a watermarking component configured to create a watermarked object from the vendor submitted object;
a recognition component configured to test the digital object for authorization violation; and
an enforcement component configured to store data representing authorization
15 violation in computer memory.